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1962/10/17

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action
EControl: 13597
Rec'd: October 17, 1962
8:25 PM

Info

FROM: Athens

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 480, October 17, 7 PM

ACTION DEPARTMENT 480, PARIS 47

PARIS FOR USRO

Department Circular Telegram 626

Embassy Officer took up question Soviet flights to Cuba promptly upon receipt REFTEL and followed up on matter today. FONOFF now advises that instructions sent Paris to effect GOG will not approve Soviet requests to overfly or make stops in Greece on flights destined for Cuba.

In connection question of overflights Embassy Officer raised matter of reported flights by five Soviet AN's over Greece to Cairo. (See Air Attache message CX-255 to USAF Washington on subject AN-12 flights.) Clearance this flight originally not granted by GOG until Soviets provided statement as to nature of flight, i.e., "Soviet cargo transport planes proceeding Cairo empty." In this connection FONOFF representative noted GOG of course at mercy of Soviets in terms of whether they declare fully what the real destination is, but they feel bound to accept Soviet assertion as correct.

Embassy Officer then inquired concerning press reports to effect Foreign Minister had had discussions recently with Greek ship owners concerning Cuba shipments. At that time they had reportedly pointed to problems involved in time charters already signed with the Bloc and complications involved in breaking such contracts. Foreign Ministry officer stated he knew of no such meeting with the Foreign Minister.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by *RB/aw/h* DATE *1/2/68*
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-2- 480, October 17, 7 PM, From: Athens

[but this subject had been discussed with other Foreign Ministry officials, and Ambassador Matsas had in fact been requested to take up with Department following two problems: (1) Problem relating to already existing time charters, and (2) relating possibility of USG waiving 50/50 clause on US Government shipments which would recompense Greek ship owners for their action in denying selves Cuban traffic.]

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